Chrome Ltd. (ICCL), Ispat Alloys, Ferro Alloys Corporation Limited (FACOR) and Jindal Strips. The proposal was for grant of only 50% of the area of 855.476 hects. whereas the Central Government's Order dated 17th August, 1995 had requested the State Govt, to send the proposal for grant of mining lease in favour of the aforesaid four parties for the total area of 855.476 hects.

While the aforesaid proposal of the State Govt, dated 24th June, 1997 was under examination, Shri M.C. Mahapatra, the then Joint Secretary in this Ministry who was handling the matter, died on 27th September, 1997, allegedly as a result of jumping from the office building of Shastri Bhawan. The police took up the investigations of the circumstances relating to the death of Shri Mahapatra. Initially the matter was being investigated by the Delhi Police and subsequently by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police. Later on, the investigations were entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The entire original record in respect of the proposal for grant of mining lease of Sukhindra Chrome Ore mines have been taken over by the CBI and any further action in the matter regarding consideration of the aforesaid proposal for grant of mining lease can be taken up only after return of the original records by the CBI who are still investigating the matter.

Subsequently, another proposal dated 30th March, 1998 was received from the State Govt, of Orissa seeking the views of the Central Govt, on their proposal to undertake mining operations of Chrome Ore over an area of 190.80 hects. (the same area which was earlier recommended by the State Govt, for grant of mining lease in favour of M/s. IMFA/ICCL) in Sukhindra Valley under Section 4(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (MMR&D Act) and to engage M/s. IMFA/ICCL as an agent of the State Govt, to undertake mining operations in the aforesaid area under Rule 75(2) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. Since the proposal of the State Govt, was not found to be consistent with the provisions of the MMR&D Act, particularly Section 4(3) of the Act *ibid,* which allows only the State Govt, to undertake mining and does not recognise mining operations by the State Govt, through an agent. The-proposal of the State Govt, has been returned to them on 23rd April, 1998 conveying Central Government's views to the effect that the proposal is not consistent with the provisions of the MMR&D Act.

Rehabilitation of Mentally Impaired Persons

*78. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of the mentally impaired persons since the enactment of the Disabilities Act, 1995 and for helping them to live a life with dignity.

(b) whether the invocation that used to be frequently played on electronic media, calling upon the people "help them, while assessing their right to live with dignity", has since been stopped, displaying lack of Government concern about their plight; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to secure these disabled persons their right to live with dignity?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Ministry of Welfare proposes to introduce a Bill for setting up a National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability.

(b) The information is being collected from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(c) The National Trust when set up will assist through providing respite care and family care, day care services besides residential hospitals and residential homes. It will also assist in promoting independent living in the community such as creating a conductive environment, counselling and training of family members, adult training unit, individual and group homes. The Trust would assist self help group of persons with disabilities to advocate for the realisation of their rights. The Trust will set up local level committees to grant approval for guardianship.